



N-SACC

A Publication of The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce

MAY 2025



**BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL
REPUTATION THROUGH RESPONSIBLE
CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENTS**

Editorial



Iyke Ejimofor

The April 2025 Breakfast Forum of the Nigeria - South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) was held on Thursday, 29th April 2025, sponsored by Coca-Cola Company.

Mr. Bolaji Okusaga, Managing Consultant, Precise Platform Company, was our speaker. He made a compelling presentation on "Building Organisational Reputation through Responsible Corporate Social Investments". The presentation was well received by participants.

He identified four types of stakeholders: adversarial, advocate, apathetic, and active. Organisations should strive to migrate stakeholders from being adversarial to advocate stakeholders by managing expectations and delivering value.

In addition, Amaka Onyemelukwe, Senior Director at Coca-Cola Company, who delivered the sales pitch reiterated the company's commitment to sustainability driven by its vision to create a "world without waste". She encouraged individuals and businesses to join the Company's sustainability journey by adopting recycling practices and promoting environmental conservation.

The Nigerian News segment in this edition highlights key developments in the Nigerian economic space that may be of interest to our members.

The South African News segment reports news items that may be of interest to our members. We appreciate our members for their continued support and commitment.

We value your partnership and wish your organization successful operation this year and beyond.

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NIGERIA NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood, we stand,
Nigerians all, and proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request,
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa, South Afrika -South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
Uit die diepte van ons see,
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,
And united we shall stand,
Let us live and strive for freedom,
In South Africa our land.

NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Companies interested in advertising in our Newsletter and website are to please contact the Secretariat. This is a great opportunity for projecting your companies to Nigerians and South African Communities. Companies are assured of good coverage.

UPCOMING SOUTH AFRICAN PROGRAMMES AFRICA'S GREEN ECONOMY SUMMIT 2025

Taking place 19-21 April 2025 in Cape Town, Africa's Green Economy Summit (AGES) will connect high-impact climate and other sustainable development projects across Africa with global capital. This year's theme, "Building a climate resilient Africa: Catalyzing investment and innovation in the green and blue economies," will focus on the five sub-themes: green reforms, nature and biodiversity, climate finance, the future of African cities, and green industrialization.

CPI's [Barbara Buchner](#) will deliver a keynote speech during the summit's opening plenary session. CPI's Senior Advisor [Jonathan First](#), who is the interim chairperson of AGES' advisory board, will also feature as a speaker at the summit. The event is slated for April 19 to 21, 2025
Cape Town, South Africa

For further information send email to contato.brasil@cpiglobal.or

AFRICA ENERGY FORUM

We were delighted to host in Barcelona, Spain at the Fira de Montjuic for the 26th edition of the Africa Energy Forum (aef). We are truly grateful for the diverse group of experts, stakeholders, and visionaries from across the energy sector globally that came together, creating a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration.

This year we brought together over 2,100 people, including H.E. Honourable Jeremiah Kpan Koung, Vice President of Liberia, 21 Honourable Ministers and over 100 participants from across Africa's public sector and government organisations. We want to extend our sincere thanks to Sun Africa, AKSA, IFC & MIGA, Globeleq & Nedbank, and to all our sponsors, exhibitors and partners who supported the forum this year.

"Running under the theme of

Energy Systems of the Future – Balancing Africa's Needs with Global Goals, we were particularly impressed by the engaging discussions and the spirit of cooperation that permeated the forum across sessions, meetings and networking. The commitment to advancing energy solutions that answer the continent's pressing needs and the continent's energy challenges is truly inspiring." - Georgia Ermilios. The event is slated for 17 - 20 June 2025 in Cape Town, South Africa. For further information contact marketing@energynet.co.uk
DIGITAL FINANCE AFRICA 2025

Empowering Africa's Financial Future: Fintech Innovations for Inclusive Growth

Mark your calendars for 3rd July 2025! Join us in Johannesburg for Digital Finance Africa, a pivotal summit for pioneers and thought leaders in the African financial services sector. This full-day event is dedicated to tackling the pressing challenges and uncovering the vast opportunities within the realms of banking and FinTech throughout the continent.

With a sharp focus on actionable solutions and strategic perspectives, Digital Finance Africa is set to catalyze progress in financial technology and bolster economic development across the region.

The event is slated for 3rd July 2025 at 336 Panorama, The Reeds, Centurion, South Africa

For further information contact +27 12 012 5801 or email Email:events@itnewsafrika.co

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Africa's Premier Digital Commerce Event

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Converge Africa is the premier event uniting Africa's digital ecosystem—connecting leaders in eCommerce, payments, fintech, digital marketing, and fulfilment to explore innovations, tackle challenges, and unlock new growth opportunities. For enquiries contact: T: +27 21 700 3500; T: +27 21 700 3579

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Stay up to date with the latest marketing trends, ideas and strategies at our Marketing Conference This popular Marketing Conference will again inspire and assist the marketing and communication industry with its annual edition. This year the two-day LIVE conference will be presented in Cape Town at the CTICC. The conference promises to inform and inspire both the professional marketer as well as those keen to get fresh ideas on marketing their products and services. Delegates will get the opportunity to listen to 14+ marketers and industry leaders covering an array of current topics of the marketing discipline at the Marketing Conference - Marketing Indaba. For further information contact: tFor al Security

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BUILDING ORGANISATIONAL REPUTATION THROUGH RESPONSIBLE CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENTS

The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) held its April breakfast meeting at Eko Hotel and Suites, on Tuesday, 29 April, 2025 sponsored by the Coca-Cola Company, emphasizing that CSI is no longer a nicety but a necessity for businesses seeking to create shared value for both stakeholders and society.

The guest speaker, Mr. Bolaji Okusaga, Managing Consultant

at Precise Platform Company, in a compelling presentation on the importance of Corporate Social Investment (CSI) in building organizational reputation and driving sustainable growth.

He noted that by demonstrating a genuine commitment to social and environmental causes, organizations can foster trust, enhance their reputation, and ultimately drive long-term

sustainability.

A key takeaway from the presentation was the importance of understanding the dynamics of stakeholders and their expectations.

Okusaga identified four types of stakeholders: adversarial, advocate, apathetic, and active. Organizations should strive to migrate stakeholders from being adversarial to advocate stakeholders by managing



expectations and delivering value

The speaker also highlighted the evolution of corporate social responsibility, from the “laissez-faire” approach to philanthropy, triple bottom line, and sustainability. The triple bottom line approach, which focuses on people, planet, and profit, was seen as a step in the right direction, but Okusaga noted that it still had inherent weaknesses.

The presentation cited Coca-Cola's efforts to create a sustainable packaging system as an example of a company investing in the community and environment. By creating a recycling ecosystem and promoting sustainable practices, Coca-Cola is not only reducing its environmental footprint but also creating jobs and improving livelihoods.

Okusaga emphasized that organizations must clearly define their objectives beyond just making money and align with the reality of the environment in which they operate. This requires a deep understanding of the social and environmental context in which businesses operate and a willingness to adapt and evolve.

The presentation concluded that there is a correlation between social influence and reputation, and organizations should continually research and analyze areas of need to inform their CSI strategies. By doing so, businesses can build trust, reputation, and long-term sustainability.

The presentation sparked engaging discussions and questions from the audience, with attendees showing keen interest in implementing CSI strategies in their organizations.

The event provided a valuable platform for business leaders to engage, share insights, and explore opportunities for collaboration and growth, further solidifying the partnership between Nigeria and South Africa.

In addition, Amaka Onyemelukwe, Senior Director at The Coca-Cola Company, reiterated Coca-Cola's commitment to sustainability is driven by its vision to create a “World Without Waste.”

Coca-Cola Nigeria is actively demonstrating a commitment to sustainability and environmental conservation through various initiatives. These efforts include waste management interventions, promoting recycling, and investing in cleaner energy sources. Specifically, they've pledged to collect and recycle a bottle or can for every one they sell globally by 2030, and are working towards collecting 65% of their primary packaging for recycling by 2025.

She noted that the company's aim to collect and recycle more packaging waste than it produces, has invested in three bottle-to-bottle recycling facilities in Nigeria, adding that these facilities can process up to 13,000 metric tons of plastic bottles annually, creating a

significant impact on reducing waste and promoting recycling in the country.

Stressing the importance of collective action in achieving sustainability goals, she urged businesses, governments, and individuals to work together to reduce waste and promote recycling.

On the economic benefits of recycling, she cited the creation of jobs and opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses by partnering with local organizations and communities, Coca-Cola Nigeria can amplify its impact and create a lasting legacy.

The Coca-Cola Company has set ambitious targets to use more recycled materials in its packaging and reduce its carbon footprint.

Onyemelukwe encouraged individuals and businesses to join the company's sustainability journey by adopting recycling practices and promoting environmental conservation.

She emphasized that every small action counts, while collective efforts can lead to significant positive change.

In her closing remarks, Onyemelukwe charged attendees to spread the word about the importance of sustainability and recycling and to take action in their various communities to create a better environment for future generations.

NIGERIAN NEWS

NIGERIA NEEDS \$100BN ANNUALLY TO HIT 2050 GDP TARGET—FG

The federal government has disclosed that Nigeria must attract a minimum of \$100 billion in infrastructure investment annually if the country is to meet its ambitious goal of attaining a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$30,000 by the year 2050.

Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, made this known during a courtesy visit by the new Japanese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Hideo Suzuki, to his office in Abuja.

Bagudu noted that road infrastructure remains a vital pillar of the Nigerian economy, given the country's dependence on land transportation for the movement of goods and services. He said the government is pursuing stronger partnerships with international allies like Japan to accelerate infrastructure development and unlock long-term economic growth.

He stated: "Our Agenda 2050 Long-Term Development Plan has identified a minimum annual infrastructure investment requirement of \$100 billion if we are to meet our target of \$30,000 per capita GDP by 2050. In alignment with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's eight-point agenda, we are also working toward building a \$1 trillion economy within the next five years. This is an ambitious goal, and we are already more than 10 percent of the way there."

The minister said Nigeria is implementing targeted strategies to address underinvestment in critical infrastructure and expressed optimism about the potential contributions of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). According to him, JICA's global track record of delivering impactful development projects could play a meaningful role in Nigeria's economic transformation.

He welcomed Japan's growing development footprint in Nigeria and observed that the exchange of ideas and solutions between both countries will strengthen their respective goals and development identities.

Speaking during the visit, Ambassador Hideo Suzuki provided an update on several Japanese-led development projects in Nigeria. He stated that the "Data Collection Survey on Transport and Logistics in Nigeria" was progressing steadily and forms part of a broader collaboration with the Nigerian government.

He also noted the Project for the Development of Supporting Environment for Startups and Addressing Social Challenges, signed in Abuja in April 2024. According to Suzuki, it is the first project of its kind ever launched by Japan globally and has already gained substantial attention in Tokyo due to its creative and inclusive framework.

Other key initiatives supported by Japan include the FCT

Reduction of Non-Revenue Water Project; the Promotion of Market-Oriented Agricultural Extension Systems for Livelihood Improvement; and the Post-Harvest Processing and Marketing Pilot Project in Nasarawa and Niger States.

"These projects show Japan's strong commitment to working with Nigeria in developing inclusive and effective solutions to real-world challenges," Suzuki said. "We hope to deepen our engagement across sectors and contribute to Nigeria's development aspirations."

Suzuki officially resumed his role as ambassador following the departure of his predecessor, Ambassador Matsunaga Kazuyoshi, who served for four years in Nigeria.

Also speaking, Dr. Samson Ebimaro, Director overseeing the Office of the Permanent Secretary and Director of the International Cooperation Department, explained that the ministry's mandate is to facilitate national growth by stimulating productive sectors and creating an environment conducive to investment.

"Delivering on key economic targets requires reliable and modern infrastructure systems, particularly in transportation," he said. "This is central to boosting GDP and energizing economic activity."

NIGERIAN NEWS

FX REFORM, OTHERS GROW GOVT REVENUE TO N12.4TN – WB BANK

The Federal Government's revenue rose by 82.4 per cent from N6.8tn in 2023 to N12.4tn in 2024, driven by the unification of the foreign exchange rates, enhanced tax administration, and reforms in treasury remittances, the World Bank has said.

The development represents a N5.6tn increase in federally collected revenue and a significant rise in the government's revenue-to-GDP ratio from 2.9 per cent in 2023 to 4.5 per cent in 2024.

The World Bank disclosed this in its latest Nigeria Development Update report, titled "Building Momentum for Inclusive Growth" in Abuja. The Bretton Woods institution attributed the revenue growth to three major fiscal reforms carried out by the Nigerian government in the last two years.

It, however, noted that revenues remain low, limiting the government's ability to fund development spending despite improvements in public financial management

"Gains from FX unification and improved revenue administration boosted FGN's revenues. Revenues increased sharply from N6.8tn (2.9 per cent of GDP) in 2023 to N12.4tn (4.5 per cent of GDP) in 2024," the report said.

Gains from FX unification and improved revenue administration boosted FGN's

revenues. Revenues increased sharply from N6.8tn (2.9 per cent of GDP) in 2023 to N12.4tn (4.5 per cent of GDP) in 2024, due to three factors.

According to the report, the unification of the official and parallel exchange rates significantly increased government revenue from oil, customs duties, and other FX-linked sources. Previously, such inflows were remitted to the Federation Account at the official rate, which was around 53 per cent lower than the market rate in 2022.

This disparity, the bank said, had led to large revenue losses before the reform.

The second driver of growth, the report noted, was enhanced tax administration. Specifically, the deployment of the TaxPro Max platform by the Federal Inland Revenue Service and the implementation of withholding VAT at source by targeted sectors led to a sharp increase in non-oil revenue.

It said the third key factor was the reform of revenue remittances from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, as well as Government-Owned Enterprises. The policy, introduced in December 2023, standardised and automated transfers of independent revenues to the treasury.

This contributed an additional 0.8 percentage points to Nigeria's revenue-to-GDP ratio in 2024, the World Bank noted.

"First, the unification of the FX rate led to a significant revenue windfall, as various FX-denominated revenues (oil, VAT, CIT, and customs) used to be transferred to the Federation at the official rate, which was 53 per cent lower than the parallel rate in 2022, causing large forgone revenues of N6.2tn.

"Second, enhanced tax administration, including digital tax collection via the TaxProMax system and the implementation of withholding VAT at source by certain sectors, also helped boost revenues as evidenced by the 86.1 per cent increase in locally collected VAT in 2024.

"Third, FGN's independent revenues increased by 0.8 percentage points of GDP in 2024, following the December 2023 reform that standardised and automated remittances from MDAs and GOEs to the treasury," the World Bank stated.

Similarly, the Bretton Woods institution said Nigeria could boost its customs revenue by 66 per cent if the government eliminates arbitrary tariff deviations and import bans.

It warned that current trade policies distort prices, petrol smuggling, and weaken customs enforcement, ultimately costing the country billions in lost revenue.

The report also linked the tariff policy to lost government revenue, noting that high tariffs and import bans contribute to evasion and reduce customs

collections. The World Bank noted that the deviations push consumer prices up, encourage smuggling, and weaken customs enforcement.

"Lifting them could increase current customs revenues by 66 per cent, contributing to the ongoing fiscal adjustment," the report said. "The government should consider seizing the opportunity created by the market-reflective, competitive exchange rate to reorient trade policy for growth and jobs."

"Nigeria maintains higher-than-average tariffs on many products, bans the imports of others, and imposes many non-tariff barriers. The average tariff rate in the country is twice as high as the sub-Saharan average."

The Bretton Woods institution said that with the naira now more competitive, domestic producers are better positioned to compete with imports and take advantage of export markets.

"To produce more and export more competitively, Nigerian firms also need to import, including intermediate goods and services," the report added.

The bank advised the federal government to align tariffs with the ECOWAS CET and start with food items, given their direct impact on household welfare.

CET is a system where all member countries of ECOWAS apply the same customs duties, import quotas, and preferences to goods entering the region from third countries

The World Bank warned that current trade restrictions are disproportionately hurting poorer Nigerians.

"Reducing tariffs and import bans would confer direct benefits to consumers, giving them access to more products at lower prices, lowering inflationary pressure, boosting their purchasing power, and offering relief in the context of high cost-of-living pressures," the report said.

"Import bans increase prices by an estimated 5.8 per cent on average in Nigeria, particularly for products more intensely consumed by poorer households, such as food and medical products. Lifting import bans could lower poverty rates by an estimated 2.6 percentage points."

The World Bank recommendation comes more than a month after the United States Trade Representative faulted Nigeria's import ban on 25 items, saying the restrictions limit market access for American exporters.

FG SET TO BOOST AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY WITH ACRE SAL PROJECT

The federal government has expressed strong desire and commitment to leverage the World Bank's financed Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) project as a key strategy to enhance agriculture and food security across Nigeria.

Minister of Environment, Malam

Balarabe Abbas Lawal, gave the commitment in Lagos at the closing ceremony of ACRE SAL project retreat, organised for members of the steering and technical committees, drawn from the nineteen Northern states that are beneficiaries of the project.

According to the minister, the ACRE SAL initiative directly addresses the severe impacts of climate change, particularly desert encroachment and land degradation prevalent in 19 Northern states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He highlighted the potential expansion of the project's scope, stating, "We believe that rainwater harvesting is a significant area where ACRE SAL could expand its efforts by promoting all-season farming, reducing reliance on rain-fed agriculture and consistent water availability to benefit the restoration of forests."

Also speaking at the retreat, the Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Security, Dr. Sabi Aliyu Abdullahi, lauded the significant progress made by ACRE SAL project in promoting sustainable agriculture and food security in Northern Nigeria.

"Through collective efforts, we have empowered communities to adopt climate-resilient practices, revitalised degraded lands, and strengthened food systems in 19 Northern states and the FCT," he affirmed.

Abdullahi underscored the

alignment of the ACRoSAL initiative with the current administration's Renewed Hope Agenda, which prioritises agricultural transformation and food security as crucial elements for national development.

"By tackling land degradation and climate challenges, we are not only securing livelihoods but also building a foundation for a more prosperous and resilient Nigeria," he stated.

Task Team Leader for ACRoSAL and Senior Environmental Specialist at the World Bank, Dr. Joy Iganya Agene, had given positive assessment of the ACRoSAL project, stating that its performance in the initial two years has been satisfactory, with tangible benefits already being felt across participating states.

In her welcome remarks, Agene highlighted the project's success in healing the land using the Halfmoon regenerative agriculture approach in Adamawa State, and mitigating flooding challenges in several states, including Katsina and Kaduna. She emphasised that ACRoSAL's interventions has largely prevented the tragic loss of lives previously experienced due to severe flooding in these regions.

FG Launches Survey to Encourage Nigerian Digital Firms Spread Across Africa

The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment has announced the launch of the Digital Services Survey in a

strategic effort to empower Nigerian digital service providers to expand across Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

The ministry's Director Press and Public Relations, Dr. Adebayo Thomas in a statement said the aims of the digital services initiative is to map and support the growth of Nigerian digital services throughout the continent and simplify the process for digital businesses to navigate regulatory environments and expand their reach across African markets.

He added that Nigerian digital businesses often face challenges when entering other African markets, including uncertainties around service registration, applicable regulations, and responsible agencies.

Thomas said: "Unlike physical goods, digital services don't always align with existing trade categories. This framework will serve as a common language, ensuring consistent treatment of digital services across borders" and its benefits include unlocking new markets by identifying target African countries for expansion, as Nigeria can focus trade negotiations on opening specific markets for digital services."

He added, "The framework would also create a Digital Services Repository and for the first time, Nigeria will compile a comprehensive database of digital service providers, their expansion plans, and the challenges they face.

Furthermore, the framework would strengthen Nigeria's digital leadership by positioning the country as a proactive leader in Africa's digital economy, shaping the rules and standards for digital trade."

NIGERIAN SCHOOLS MUST INTEGRATE AI INTO CURRICULUM – EXPERT

A data and AI expert, Abel Aboh, has urged the Nigerian government to embed artificial intelligence education into school curricula from the nursery level upwards, warning that the country risks falling behind global standards if it fails to act swiftly.

Speaking during an interview with Channels Television on Wednesday, Aboh, a Data Manager, AI leader, and board member at The Data Lab in Scotland, emphasized the importance of preparing young Nigerians to not just consume AI technologies, but to build and innovate with them.

"We need to start from the early years. When we talk about early years careers, we're talking about people that are from nursery school. It's crazy to say that, but countries like China are already starting from nursery and primary school," he said.

Aboh argued that introducing AI and digital skills early in life is no longer optional but essential.

He stressed that schools without internet or computer access are no longer viable in today's world, and Nigeria must catch up.

"Imagine a school without internet or without using computers. It's not possible. We've got to embed artificial intelligence as part of the curriculum. This is not about an optional thing. This is a compulsory thing that needs to happen," he said.

He pointed out that while efforts like the reported training of three million Nigerians in tech skills are commendable, the scope remains limited compared to the nation's population and youthful demographic.

"You mentioned a number about 3 million, that's a good number. But in my projection, we need to be targeting 10 million young Nigerian youths at the moment, not just 3 million," Aboh said.

He called for AI integration across Nigeria's roughly 200 universities and colleges, including secondary and primary schools.

"These institutions need to be using artificial intelligence as part of their curriculum; not just coding or data science, but how to develop and create those tools as well."

Addressing concerns about the urgency of tech education amid widespread poverty and hunger, Aboh argued that AI could play a crucial role in addressing economic challenges by creating jobs and unlocking innovation.

"When someone is hungry, what the person needs is food. And food does not fall from the sky, you've got to create it. People are hungry because they're not

economically active. Artificial intelligence will help you earn money, create things you can sell, and feed yourself," he said.

He stressed that Nigeria can no longer rely solely on traditional methods to address societal challenges.

"We can't just go into the farms and keep farming every day. It's not possible. We've got to apply artificial intelligence to everything we do."

On government action, Aboh revealed that Nigeria's national AI strategy remains in draft form, urging policymakers to formalize it and act quickly.

"We've got the national AI strategy, unfortunately, the strategy is under draft and that's sitting in the shed. That's not good enough. We need to move that from a draft to an active policy," he said.

He also highlighted the importance of fast-tracking the Digital Economy Bill, which is still awaiting passage into law.

"Government needs to set the trajectory and the policy, and then the public sector needs to galvanize quite quickly," he added.

DANGOTE'S WORLD BANK APPOINTMENT WELL DESERVED – TINUBU

Dangote's World Bank appointment well deserved – Tinubu

President Bola Tinubu has congratulated the Chairman of

Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, on his appointment to the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab — a high-level global advisory body designed to accelerate private investment and job creation in emerging economies.

The congratulatory message was contained in a statement by the Special Adviser to the President on Information and Strategy, Bayo Onanuga, on Wednesday.

The President acknowledged Dangote's new role at the World Bank, stressing the significance of the lab's mission — which he said aligns with Nigeria's and other developing countries' aspirations for economic growth through private sector involvement.

Tinubu justified the merit of Dangote's selection, pointing to his extensive track record as an investor and employer.

The President praised the industrialist's ability to grow the Dangote Group into a powerful conglomerate through innovation, resilience, and continued capital infusion, making him a symbol of African entrepreneurship.

The statement partly read, "President Bola Tinubu congratulates Alhaji Aliko Dangote, the President of Dangote Group, on his appointment to the World Bank's Private Sector Investment Lab, a body tasked with promoting investment and job creation in emerging economies.

"The President describes the

appointment as apt, given Dangote's rich private sector experience, strategic investments, and many employment opportunities created through his Dangote Group. The Dangote Group became one of Africa's leading conglomerates through innovation and continuous investment."

Also, the President emphasised the scale and ambition of Dangote's investments, spotlighting the \$20 billion refinery project in Lagos, which has been dubbed Africa's largest private-sector initiative.

He referenced it as a shining example of the industrialist's capacity to undertake transformative projects with continent-wide implications.

He added, "Dangote Group's business interests span cement, fertiliser, salt, sugar, oil, and gas.

"However, the \$20 billion Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals remains Africa's most daring project and most significant single private investment."

Calling Dangote to action, the President encouraged him to use his expertise and track record to influence the World Bank's global development agenda — particularly in helping other developing nations benefit from his knowledge of attracting capital and delivering large-scale development projects.

"President Tinubu urges Dangote to bring to bear on the World

Bank appointment his transformative ideas and initiatives to impact the emerging markets across the world fully," the statement added.

Tinubu noted that Dangote's appointment is part of an effort to scale private-sector-led solutions to global development challenges, such as unemployment and limited infrastructure.

He situated Dangote among other globally respected business leaders from diverse industries, reinforcing the prestige of the appointment.

"The World Bank announced Dangote's appointment on Wednesday as part of a broader expansion of its Private Sector Investment Lab.

"The lab now enters a new phase aimed at scaling up solutions to attract private capital and create jobs in the developing world.

"The CEO of Bayer AG, Bill Anderson, the Chair of Bharti Enterprises, Sunil Bharti Mittal, and the President and CEO of Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Mark Hoplamazian, are on the Private Sector Investment Lab with Dangote. The World Bank said the expanded membership brings together business leaders with proven track records in generating employment in developing economies, supporting the Bank's focus on job creation as a central pillar of global development", he concluded.

FED GOVT LAUNCHES N300B SUKUK FOR ROAD PROJECTS

The federal government is seeking to raise some N300 billion through a new Sukuk issuance as part of efforts to diversify government's funding sources and accelerate the pace of infrastructural development.

The N300 billion Sovereign Sukuk is a seven-year Sukuk due 2032; a non-interest, alternative instrument designed in a form of annual rental income. The annual rental income is 19.75 per cent. Sukuk is a non-interest, asset-backed instrument, based on the principles of Islamic finance.

The Debt Management Office (DMO), which oversees Nigeria's government debt issuances and management, indicated yesterday that the offer would open today with a minimum subscription of N10,000. The offer closes on May 20, 2025.

The Sukuk serves the dual purposes of diversifying government's funding for critical national infrastructural projects and also expanding the domestic investment market to meet the need of ethical investors.

The Sukuk is being offered at N1,000 per unit, subject to a minimum subscription of N10,000 and in multiples of N1,000 thereafter.

The rental payment will be made half-yearly while the bullet repayment will be done on the date of maturity.

As a sovereign issuance, the Sukuk is backed by the full faith

and credit of the Federal Government and it qualifies as securities in which trustees can invest under the Trustee Investment Act. It also qualifies as government securities within the meaning of Company Income Tax Act and Personal Income Tax Act for tax exemption for pension funds among other investors. It is also classified as liquid asset by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and certified by the Financial Regulation Advisory Council of Experts of the CBN.

The N300 billion Sukuk will be listed on the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) and FMDQ Securities Exchange Limited upon completion.

Managing Director, Arthur Steven Asset Management, Mr. Olatunde Amolegbe, described the Sukuk as a high-yielding investment with predictable cashflows.

According to him, the Sukuk provides a good route for wealth accumulation and investment compounding.

"Aside from the fact that it is a gilt edge bond that is covered by the full faith and credit of the Federal Government, this particular instrument has good rate of return at nearly 20 per cent. It also provides an excellent investment outlet for ethical investors that do not want interest-based investment to put their investments in," Amolegbe said.

He noted that the Sukuk is recognised as a liquid asset as it

can be converted to cash within two days on securities exchanges.

Sources said the government could raise more than N300 billion, citing the historical issuance trend.

The federal government had in 2017 launched its sovereign Sukuk issuance as a strategic initiative to support the development of critical infrastructure, promote financial inclusion and deepen the domestic securities market.

Sukuk as an alternative instrument to conventional bonds and it is based on the tenets of Islam which prohibits usury or lending with interest payments. Sukuk does not indicate the existence of any debt obligation as the issuer uses the proceeds from the certificate to purchase an asset, of which the investor also receives partial ownership.

Nigeria's N150 billion third sovereign Sukuk issuance had recorded oversubscription of N519.12 billion, sustaining a trend of oversubscription that started with the maiden issuance 2017. The Federal Government had in June 2020 issued a N150 billion seven-year Ijarah Sukuk due June 2027 with approximate rental of 11.200 per cent per annum.

The Federal Government had in September 2017 floated its first sovereign Sukuk, a N100 billion seven-year issue with a rental rate of 16.47 per cent. It was oversubscribed by 5.8 per cent.

Government followed in 2018 N100 billion seven-year tenored Sukuk Al Ijarah (Lease) with annual rental rate of 15.743 per cent. It was also oversubscribed.

Director General, Debt Management Office (DMO) Ms Patience Oniha, had said the government recognised the need to issue more Sukuk bonds given the increasing success and strong investor's appetite for the alternative non-interest bonds.

According to her, the Sukuk initiative by DMO, which oversees national debt management, has been increasingly successful given the strong level of awareness that has been created.

She attributed the success of the Sukuk issuances to the increased confidence from market participants given that the Sukuk bonds are tied to specific projects that can be tracked.

"Looking ahead, we recognise the need to upscale issuances to include other standalone projects beyond road infrastructure, but more importantly, we are looking to support projects that are revenue generating to service the Sukuk," Oniha said.

Nigeria ripe for investments – Shettima

Vice-President Kashim Shettima says, with critical reforms in key sectors of the economy, Nigeria is ripe for investments.

Shettima stated this when he hosted a delegation from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Shettima said President Bola Tinubu's administration has addressed most of the grey areas that hitherto served as disincentives to investors.

"It is an exciting opportunity to invest in Nigeria. The administration of President Tinubu has created the enabling environment.

"The administration is still doing so by addressing most of the grey areas that hitherto served as a disincentive.

"So, this is a great time to invest in Nigeria," he said.

Shettima said the administration is implementing well-thought-out interventions in human capital development, nutrition, agriculture, health, education and promotion of digital trade,

"This administration is poised to address the challenges that we have in key areas of human capital development, financial inclusion, infrastructure and nutrition.

"In fact, we have no option but to address most of these issues, and we will continue to act in the right direction," he stressed.

The Vice-President applauded Nigeria's partnership with the Islamic Development Bank, noting that both entities are based primarily on the country's national interest.

He urged IsDB to continue on the path already laid through its support for key government programmes like Special Agro-Processing Zones (SAPZ) programme, the i-DICE project

and other initiatives.

"Let us cross-pollinate ideas and come up with a design for your Country Engagement Framework (CEF).

"I want you to record in your Country Engagement Framework, the development of a Halal economy, promotion of digital trade, financial inclusion and other areas.

"I urge closer collaboration to enable us to address some of these challenges," he said.

Shettima further noted that the bank's programmes in Nigeria aligned with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Tinubu across different sectors.

He called for improved support from the bank in areas of agriculture, human capital development, gender inclusion, investment in education and health infrastructure, and nutrition.

Earlier, Mr Hundal, said the bank was committed to scaling up its intervention through a holistic review of its Country Engagement Framework (CEF) in Nigeria.

He assured that the bank would prioritise key aspects of the agenda of President Tinubu.

Hundal identified key areas of its intervention in the country, including economic infrastructure, support for the private sector, energy security, and the i-DICE programme.

The highpoint of the meeting was the presentation of the bank's Country Engagement Framework

(CEF) to the Vice-President by its Country Economist, Dr Obioma Asuzu.

The CEF highlights key broad strategic objectives of boosting recovery, tackling poverty and building resilience, and driving green economic growth.

Asuzu said the IsDB CEF for Nigeria is driven by the country's national priorities, partnerships with critical stakeholders, and resource mobilisation.

TINUBU RESTATES COMMITMENT TO COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORMS

President Bola Tinubu has reiterated his commitment in undertaking bold and comprehensive reforms to reposition the country's fiscal architecture for resilience, inclusiveness and economic growth.

Tinubu spoke yesterday during the 27th Annual Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) Tax Conference in Abuja.

The theme of the conference was, "Taxation for development, policies, law and implementation"

Represented by the Minister of State for Finance, Dr Doris Uzoka-Anite, the president said the central pillar of the reforms was taxation.

"I believe that a robust, transparent and fair tax system is essential not only for financing government operations but also for creating an environment of accountability, stability and long-term development.

"Accordingly, the government has taken deliberate steps to restructure and modernise our tax administration and legal framework.

"In this regard, the establishment of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms marked a significant turning point," the president said.

According to him, the committee was tasked to simplify the tax system, broadening the tax base, curb leakages and ensure alignment between fiscal policy and national development objectives.

"Members of the committee worked tirelessly to achieve their mandates which include addressing issues of multiplicity of taxes and improving coordination between the federal, state and local government tax authorities.

"The Federal Government also pushed forward with the Economy Stabilisation Bill, which has now also been passed," he said.

He said the success of any reform depended on implementation, adding that the conference presented an opportunity for all stakeholders to explore how policies and laws can be translated into practical and measurable outcomes.

"This is also an occasion to discuss solutions to long-standing issues such as taxation, informal sector integration, fiscal federalism and equity in taxation. As tax professionals and policy makers, you are the custodians of

Nigeria's tax future.

"I, therefore, urge you to leverage this platform to engage meaningfully, challenge assumptions and craft pathways that will strengthen our tax institutions, boost revenue and ultimately improve the lives of Nigerians," Tinubu said.

The Vice President, Sen. Kashim Shettima, said the theme was an evidence that the CITN acknowledges the centrality of government revenue generation in the achievement of growth and development for any country.

Shettima was represented by the Special Adviser to the President on Economic Affairs under the Office of the VP, Dr Tope Fasua.

He said the focus on the tax aspect of revenue conferred a dual responsibility on the taxpayer and the tax administrator (government).

"Taxation is crucial to the achievement of economic development. We hope to listen to ideas at this conference around how to ensure that a stakeholder's view is taken right from the policy enactment stage up to the point of implementation.

"This is bearing in mind that taxation is a continuous affair, and legitimacy is conferred by the delivery of service to taxpayers.

"The need for a stakeholder point of view is why the Presidential Committee of Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms is made up of professionals from diverse walks of life," he said.

The 16th President of the CITN Council, Mr Samuel Agbeluyi, said tax was an important factor in every economy.

He said taxation was not merely a tool for revenue generation but a powerful instrument for promoting equity, redistributing wealth, incentivising growth and funding public services.

"However, for taxation to truly serve these developmental goals, policy formulation, legal framework and implementation mechanisms must be harmoniously aligned.

"When policy is progressive, the law is enabling and implementation is both efficient and equitable.

"The result is a tax system that engenders trust, encourages voluntary compliance and delivers shared prosperity," Agbeluyi said.

He said Nigeria faced significant challenges from economy to security and social dimensions, adding that there was a dire need for sustainable solutions.

"At the heart of these solutions lies our tax system. In this regard, one cannot overlook the commendable effort by the Tinubu-led administration.

"The work of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms reflects a resolute commitment to charting a course for sustainable socio-economic development through effective and efficient taxation system," he said.

NIGERIA NEEDS \$10BN ANNUALLY FOR 20 YEARS TO HAVE STABLE ELECTRICITY

The Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adalebu, yesterday, said Nigeria needs \$10 billion annually for 20 years to have stable electricity supply.

Adalebu said this same day the federal government through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) unveiled the third phase of its flagship Rural Electrification Fund (REF), aimed at expanding off-grid electricity access to Nigeria's most underserved communities.

The minister spoke in an interview with journalists after inaugurating the 2.5mw solar hybrid power project at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna.

He said the infrastructure deficit in the power sector had piled up over the last 60 years due to a lack of maintenance, lack of additional investment, and failure to revive transmission grids.

"For us to achieve functional, reliable, and stable electricity in Nigeria, we need not less than \$10 billion annually for the next 10 to 20 years.

"But there are some foundational bottlenecks that we experienced in the past that need to be fixed for the spending of this money to have meaning," the minister said.

He, however, said the present administration of President Bola Tinubu was doing its best to tackle the challenges.

Adalebu said, the signing of the energy bill into an Act was one of

the important steps taken by the government to tackle the challenges in the power sector.

"This bill has achieved liberation and decentralisation of the power sector to enable all levels of government – federal, state, and local governments to legally and morally play roles in the power sector to give their citizens at sub-national levels electricity.

"This has given autonomy to more than eleven states, and more are still coming.

"They can now play roles in the power sector from generation to transmission to distribution and even metering.

"Secondly, we talk about infrastructure deficit, then we talk about fixing infrastructure deficit which has piled up over the last 60 years due to lack of maintenance, lack of additional investment to revive our transmission grid", he said.

The minister emphasised the government's resolve to provide sustainable and reliable energy to critical national institutions.

The project, which was executed by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), an agency of the Federal Ministry of Power, is part of the landmark Energising Education Programme (EEP) Phase II.

The project will provide uninterrupted electricity to academic buildings, staff residences, barracks, and critical facilities within the NDA.

Earlier in his address, Managing Director and Chief Executive

Officer (CEO), REA, Abba Aliyu, described the unveiling of the project as, "a turning point in Nigeria's journey toward energy access for learning institutions."

He noted that the agency was not just for commissioning project, but commissioning social impact, research and sustainable development.

"EEP Phase II is not just an energy project, it is a national mission. We are delivering clean energy to power academic excellence, national security, and innovation", Aliyu added.

Also in his remarks, the Commandant of the NDA, Major Gen. AK Ibrahim, expressed appreciation to the federal government and the REA for the project.

He said, "This solar hybrid plant is a critical addition to our infrastructure.

"It allows us to train and operate without power disruptions, ensuring we maintain the standards of excellence and discipline expected of Nigeria's military leadership institution."

FG Set to Attract N5.6bn to Third Round of Rural Electrification Fund, Signs Deals with 58 Firms

Meanwhile, the federal government through the REA yesterday unveiled the third phase of its flagship REF, aimed at expanding off-grid electricity access to Nigeria's most underserved communities.

The initiative, which was officially launched at a grant agreement signing ceremony and access to

finance workshop in Abuja, was expected to attract over N5.6 billion in private sector investment, delivering a total capacity of 9mw of renewable energy.

During the ceremony, the REA also signed several MoUs with about 58 developers, who will see the effective implementation of the programme.

REF, a government-backed initiative, was designed to promote rural electrification by providing financial support to projects and is dedicated to expanding electricity access to underserved and off-grid communities across Nigeria.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director of REA, Abba Aliyu, emphasised the transformative potential of the REF initiative, stressing that the programme will provide over N6.4 billion in capital subsidies to qualified developers for the construction of mini-grids and deployment of solar home systems.

Represented by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, Mr. Gboyega Ayoade, the REA chief stated that since its inception, the Fund has stood as a symbol of innovation, resilience, and measurable impact.

The project, he said, would impact over 31,500 beneficiaries, including households, small businesses, schools, and healthcare centres across rural Nigeria.

According to him, the initiative was expected to generate more than 6,000 direct and indirect

jobs while reducing carbon emissions by over 39,000 tons annually.

"As we commence REF Call 3, our mission goes far beyond scaling numbers. It is about scaling impact. This next phase is designed to deepen penetration into underserved areas, catalyse productive use of energy, and foster," he said.

Highlighting the achievements of the REFs so far, Aliyu noted that the interventions have already delivered 124 mini-grids, over 25,000 solar home systems, and impacted 183 communities across all 36 states and Abuja.

These efforts, according to him, have not only led to the installation of 16.6mw of renewable energy capacity, but also created over 26,000 jobs and helped avoid 91,720 tons of carbon emissions to date.

"These achievements are not just data points. They represent lives empowered, classrooms illuminated, health centers revived, and dual economies set into motion," Aliyu added.

In her presentation, Executive Director of the REF, Doris Uboh, reiterated that REF, the government's strategic financing tool to bridge the energy gap in rural and peri-urban areas, was established by the Electricity Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 and revitalised under the Electricity Act of 2023.

"Our journey began with REF Call 1, a N2 billion initiative that deployed 1 megawatt of mini-grid energy and 300 kilowatt peak

solar home system, reaching over 24,000 connections across the six geopolitical zones in the country. It demonstrated what was possible when we paired capital with community and vision with execution.

"Next was REF Call 2. Under this programme, we allocated N3.9 billion and delivered 51 mini-grids, deploying a total of 3.9 megawatts, creating over 5,000 jobs and reducing 23,585 tons of carbon emission annually. We attracted over N2.2 billion in private sector investment, affirming that rural education is not a charity. It is a smart and sustainable development goal," she stated.

She outlined the agency's strategic framework, including the upcoming e-HEART initiative, which seeks to deploy 3,700 mini-grids to electrify rural healthcare centres, schools, farms, and transport systems with 370mw of clean energy.

With 37 states already engaged and 15 having committed counterpart funding, e-HEART, she said, was set to become Nigeria's largest decentralised energy project.

Uboh urged developers to adhere to project timelines, quality standards, and sustainability plans, warning that the REA has zero tolerance for failed projects. She also emphasised the importance of clauses in the grant agreement relating to compliance, conditions precedent, and performance.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

THE DTIC LAUNCHES PROGRAMME TO DEVELOP NEXT GENERATION OF EXPORTERS

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) has launched the Next-Gen Exporter Incubation Programme aimed at equipping young entrepreneurs with exporting skills, resources and support that they require to become successful first-time exporters.

Speaking at the virtual launch, the Acting Deputy Director-General of Exports at the dtic, Mr Willem van der Spuy described the programme as a high-impact, 12-month intervention targeting youth-led enterprises with demonstrated export potential and supports them through a structured development journey.

"The programme is specifically tailored for the alumni of the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme. At its core, this programme aims to cultivate an export culture among student and youth-owned businesses, enabling them to seize opportunities in global markets and contribute to inclusive economic growth," said Van der Spuy.

He explained that a few months ago, the dtic and the Universities South Africa (USAf) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education (EDHE) programme. The objective of MoU is to foster collaboration in promoting entrepreneurship and export

development among student and youth-owned businesses.

"The Next-Gen Exporter Incubation Programme represents a bold step forward in realising our shared vision of building a pipeline of globally competitive, youth-led enterprises. Participants will gain access to expert mentorship and technical advisory; training on export readiness and compliance; support in meeting international standards and certification requirements; and tools to develop market entry and export marketing strategies, amongst others," added Van der Spuy.

He noted that the programme would also afford the emerging exporters an opportunity to benefit from strategic trade frameworks such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Southern African Development Community (SADC), European Union, and cross-border e-commerce. Special emphasis will be placed on digital trade and digital platform solutions to expand global reach.

MINISTER RONALD LAMOLA: MEDIA BRIEFING FOCUSING ON SOUTH AFRICA'S G20 PRESIDENCY

We are now in the sixth month, or halfway into South Africa's G20 Presidency, a historic responsibility we assumed on 1 December 2024. As the first African nation to lead this bloc, we remain steadfast in our

commitment to advancing a world grounded in Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability, albeit in a volatile and polarized geopolitical climate. Since officially assuming the G20 Presidency on 1 December 2024, South Africa has convened 51 meetings across all the Sherpa Track and Finance Track Working Groups, including the three Task Forces established by our Presidency. These meetings discussed some of the most important and urgent challenges facing the global community, reflecting our strong determination to seek sustainable and innovative solutions through dialogue, collaboration and cooperation.

The ongoing G20 discussions are aimed at advancing South Africa's overarching priorities, namely;

- Strengthening disaster resilience and response.
- Ensuring debt sustainability for low-income countries.
- Mobilising finance for a just energy transition.
- Harnessing critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development.

You will recall that our Task Forces are focusing on

- Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrialisation, Employment, and Reduced Inequality;
- Food Security, and



SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

- Reduced Inequality and Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

Throughout the working groups, we are also championing broader and cross cutting issues such as (1) reform of the multilateral trading system and the international financial architecture, including strengthening of multilateral development banks, (2) seeking solutions to addressing Climate Change, (3) promoting diversity, equity and inclusion, (4) advocating for Gender Equality, (5) pursuing enhanced international tax cooperation and addressing illicit financial flows and (6) exploring ways to increase the predictability, scale and flows of climate finance, which is critical to enable the Just Transition and mitigation and adaptation efforts.

From the recent meetings it is important to note that whilst there are divergences on some issues, as to be expected in multilateral engagements, there is still overwhelming support for South Africa's priorities by G20 members. Furthermore, when our G20 Sherpa briefed the United Nations General Assembly in New York on our G20 priorities in March 2025, the meeting also expressed strong support for our G20 Presidency agenda.

At the 2024 Rio de Janeiro Summit, G20 Leaders made a commitment to "evaluate the

G20's first full cycle of presidencies under South Africa's Presidency and, with full respect to the principles agreed at the Cannes Summit in 2011, provide recommendations to the second cycle, including a roadmap for future presidencies." They also reiterated their ambition for the G20 to remain the premier forum for international economic cooperation. In this spirit, South Africa's 2025 G20 Presidency is championing a review ("G20@20") that reflects on the G20's achievements and working methods since 2008 as a proposed Leaders'-level outcome.

The G20@20 review will reflect the diverse national views of G20 Members and permanent Guest countries, including through a survey, a dedicated discussion at the third G20 Sherpa Meeting in June, and written consultations. The findings of the survey, compendium and Sherpa discussion will be synthesised into a high-level report for presentation and proposed endorsement by G20 Leaders at the Johannesburg Summit.

A Commitment to Rules-based Multilateralism

South Africa's G20 Presidency stands firm in the belief that multilateral cooperation is not optional—it is imperative. Unilateral actions that undermine the rules-based order risk reversing decades of progress. It is for this reason that the 1st G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in February 2025:

- Noted that 2025 will mark the 80th Anniversary of the United Nations and reaffirmed the commitment to strengthening multilateralism and that all states must act in a manner consistent with the Purposes and Principles of the UN Charter.
- Underscored the need to reform international system of global governance, inclusive of the international financial architecture, the multilateral trading system, and the multilateral development banks.
- Further stressed the need to reform the United Nations to make it fit for purpose and relevant to the current international reality. This includes the Security Council.
- Noted with concern the slow progress being made in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda. To this end, the meeting stressed on the need for urgent action to accelerate efforts and reaffirm the G20's strong commitment to the SDGs in line with the theme, Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability.

In addition, at the 2nd G20

Sherpa meeting held in April 2025, many delegations, including South Africa, expressed serious concerns about the resurgence of protectionism and unilateral measures that undermine the multilateral trading system and reaffirmed need for collective action to:

- Honour and strengthen our WTO commitments, including the principle of Special and Differential Treatment, while advancing necessary reforms.
- Resolve trade disputes through constructive dialogue and established mechanisms.
- Ensure trade policies actively support sustainable development objectives, particularly Africa's industrialisation and transition to value-added production.

An Inclusive and People Centered G20

The majority of the 13 Official G20 Engagement Groups have been constituted, have defined their priorities and are working on their deliverables. We have also had several consultative engagements with local and international civil society organisations around the hosting of the Second G20 Social Summit, following the first such initiative under Brazil's Presidency last year in Rio de Janeiro.

The Engagement Groups and Social Summit are critical to ensuring that the G20 agenda is more democratic inclusive and comprehensive and that those people who are impacted by the decisions of the G20 are heard. At the forthcoming Sherpa meeting to be held in the last week of June 2025 in Sun City, in the North-West province, Engagement Groups will have the opportunity to make their formal submissions to the G20 on issues they propose for inclusion in the G20 Leaders' Declaration to be negotiated and adopted by Leaders in November 2025.

In the current geopolitical and geoeconomic global headwinds, there are high expectations on South Africa to deliver positive outcomes, advance innovative solutions to global challenges, and re-build the trust of the international community in the G20.

Cultural Diplomacy: "Africa's Call"

I am proud to announce the release, on 9 May of "Africa's Call," a song that embodies and reflects the spirit of Ubuntu, our African identity, and our G20 Presidency's mission. This anthem, now streaming globally, is a reminder that culture and our common humanity unite us even as we debate and sometimes disagree on policies. I invite all citizens to listen, share, and let its message of hope resonate in all communities across South Africa.

The Road Ahead: Priorities for Action

Over the next few months, until 7 November 2025, the Sherpa and Finance Track Working Groups will continue to meet to discuss their priorities and deliverables and negotiate and issue Ministerial declarations.

The Third Sherpa meeting is expected to further discuss geopolitical issues and the contribution of the G20 to the global development agenda and in fostering equitable global governance.

We are also planning to host two important meetings outside South Africa:

- Firstly, a G20 Compact with Africa (CwA) meeting in Addis Ababa in July 2025. You will recall that during our Presidency, we are pursuing a broadened and effective G20 CwA, which includes increasing the number of participating African Union members.
- Secondly, we will host the second G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York in September 2025, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week. This will be the second time ever that a G20 meeting is held at the United Nations, after Brazil's historic hosting of the same meeting last year. The United Nations, at of core of which is the



SOUTH AFRICAN NEWS

General Assembly, with its universal representation where every country participates on an equal footing, is and will always remain the chief deliberative, and policymaking and representative organ of global community of nations. Therefore, the work we do in the G20, an informal grouping, seeks to support, contribute to and reinforce already existing processes of the United Nations and its organs in a complimentary manner.

We are also in discussions to host meetings in two other African countries later this year.

Finally, we are undertaking logistical preparations for the hosting of the Leaders' Summit at NASREC in November 2025. As you can imagine, the Summit is a major project requiring significant planning, coordination and project management. Fortunately, we have put together an excellent team, from across government and the private sector to oversee and implement this successful Summit. We believe that we are on track.

To the people of South Africa, this Presidency is your platform. Engage with it, own it, and hold us accountable.

Progress is not defined by the number of meetings we host or by the number of documents we

deliver. Progress is defined by finding concrete and collective solutions to our challenges, and by how we improve the lives of all citizens, in particular the most vulnerable and most needy.

We remain guided by the wisdom of Madiba, who taught us that "it is in your hands to create a better world for all who live in it."

MINISTER PATRICIA DE LILLE: OPENING CEREMONY OF AFRICA'S TRAVEL INDABA 2025

It is therefore an honour that the Deputy President of South Africa, HE Mr Paul Mashatile, is here today to open Africa's Travel Indaba.

The Indaba is a catalyst for inclusive growth, job creation, and sustainable development in tourism, not only in South Africa but throughout Africa.

This year, Durban is the host city of Indaba and a symbol of momentum for the entire African tourism community.

It is fitting that the G20 2nd Tourism Working Group Meeting is taking place on the side-lines of Africa's Travel Indaba, placing African tourism at the centre of global dialogue.

Tourism in South Africa makes a significant contribution to the economy, creating jobs and independent livelihoods.

It reaches parts of the country where there are very few other opportunities.

Tourism remains a powerful

economic driver in South Africa and across the continent. In 2024, South Africa alone welcomed 8.9 million tourists, and their direct spending contribution was R91.6 billion, supporting an estimated 1.6 million jobs.

In the first quarter of 2025, South Africa welcomed close to 2.6 million tourists, reflecting a 5.7% growth compared to the same period in 2024.

Let us remember: 75% of South Africa's international arrivals come from the rest of Africa.

According to UN Tourism, in 2024, tourism in Africa saw a sharp rebound, with a 96% recovery compared to 2019, positioning our continent among the world's fastest-growing regional tourism destinations.

I am proud to announce that this year's Indaba welcomes over 1,300 exhibitors, delegates from 27 African countries, and over 1,200 vetted international buyers from 55 source markets.

Our collective presence here signifies more than market access – it signals Africa's readiness to lead, innovate, and inspire the global tourism landscape.

We are especially honoured to welcome new participants from Chad, St Helena, and Burkina Faso, whose presence affirms Indaba's growing role as a truly continental platform.

The tourism economy of tomorrow is African. It is diverse,

youthful, digital, and green. But we know that we cannot rest. We need to break through to a much higher rate of growth. We need a plan we can implement immediately.

That is why the Department of Tourism is working on finalising a Tourism Growth Partnership Plan for the next 5 years. We aim to:

- Grow total employment from approximately 1,840,000 in 2024 to 2,500,000 jobs;
- Grow domestic spend by 25%;
- Grow GDP Contribution from approximately 8.8% in 2024 to 10%;
- Welcome an extra one million international air arrivals annually.

This means growing by 35% from 2.8m in 2024 to 3.8m and beyond. This is not a difficult ask if we all work together. Anything is possible if we work hard.

We are also proud to spotlight South African Tourism's new global brand campaign, "South Africa awaits - Come Find Your Joy," a heartfelt invitation to experience our country not just through places but also through people, culture, and emotion. Joy is Africa's gift to the world, and our tourism offerings are its vessel.

As we look ahead, let this Indaba mark a new chapter of African leadership in global tourism.

Let us commit to building an

inclusive, sustainable, and resilient sector—one that lifts communities, bridges borders, and protects our shared heritage.

This is our time. This is our Africa.

To every delegate, thank you for showing up for your countries, businesses, and dreams.

To our buyers, thank you for placing your trust in Africa's value.

To our partners, thank you for walking this journey with us.

Let's use this platform to shape a stronger, more united tourism future for our continent—one in which Africa is included and leading. Come find your joy. Come build your future. Come shape our beloved Africa.

I am honoured to introduce the Deputy President of the Republic of South Africa, the Honourable Paul Mashatile, a leader whose commitment to inclusive development and continental progress inspires us all.

DEPUTY MINISTER, JUDITH NEMADZINGA - TSHABALALA ADDRESS AT THE ANNUAL LABOUR LAW INDABA 2025

It is my privilege to address you today at the Annual Employment & Labour Law Indaba. This gathering provides a platform wherein we can hold meaningful dialogue to reflect on some pertinent issues, particularly in the space of the Labour Market. We took a daring and daunting task to commit to having this event at least once per year. If

the attendance and lineup of speakers in this indaba is anything to by, there are definite signs of growth.

Furthermore, this undertaking is a testament to our commitment in the 7th Administration to foster a fair, just, and thriving South Africa for all. As we navigate the path toward economic recovery and sustainable growth, it is essential that we establish a solid foundation rooted in fair, equal and equitable labour practices. Compliance with our nation's employment and labour laws is not merely a statutory obligation; it is a critical component of creating a stable environment that attracts investment, encourages entrepreneurship, and promotes competitiveness in the global market. Labour market in which the rights of the workforce would be protected and championed,

As the Department of Employment & Labour, we are committed to:

This includes enacting and enforcing legislation, ensuring compliance with regulations, and protecting human rights in the workplace. Essentially, these rights have got to be heroed as human rights. At the heart of the enforcement, is a deep acknowledgement that the labour market dynamism cannot leave worker rights and the enforcement thereof to pure chance.

Creating more jobs, improve

working conditions, and ensure fair wages and benefits. The fact that those jobs have got to be decent, cannot be over-emphasised. Especially in a country such as ours where the unemployment rate is unacceptably high.

This involves promoting sound labour relations, preventing discrimination, and ensuring that workplaces are free from harassment and intimidation. This is at the core of our Employment Laws.

Providing social safety nets:

Managing the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund to provide support to vulnerable workers and their families. Social security is an indispensable cushion in instances wherein the need of such, arises.

- Enhancing occupational health and safety:
- Focusing on improving workplace safety, reducing occupational injuries and illnesses, and promoting a culture of health and safety. As the cliché states: "one death in the workplace, is one death too many"
- Promoting social dialogue:

Working with employers, unions, and other stakeholders to develop and implement policies that address the needs of all parties. We can take pride in the fact that our dialogue is institutionalised at the NEDLAC

level.

Working to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunities for all workers, regardless of race, gender, religion, or disability. Essentially, leaving no one behind.

Social dialogue mechanisms led by NEDLAC (National Economic Labour and Development Council) – hailed as a major achievement by the ILO (International Labour Organisation);

The National Minimum Wage Act which set at threshold for wages, immediately uplifting the wages of over 6 million workers since it was introduced in 2019.

Programme Director, the South African Labour Laws continue to play a crucial role in shaping the dynamics of the workplace and ensuring fairness and protection for both employees and employers. Effective labour laws contribute to a thriving economy. When employers treat employees fairly and protect their rights, it fosters a positive work environment. This positive atmosphere encourages collaboration, enthusiasm, and productivity, ultimately benefiting the economy.

Unfair discrimination practices in the workplace have led to under-utilization of the greater portion of the productive population of South Africa. Although the country lacks skills in certain critical areas in the economy, many graduates are, nonetheless, either

underemployed or unemployed, the majority of whom are Black people, females and persons with disabilities.

Although this country has one of the most diverse populations in the world, this did not translate into a strategic business advantage in the country, and it had serious implications for the economic viability and efficiency of South Africa, which in turn undermines its development and sustained competitiveness in the global market.

Employment Equity legislation was introduced in South Africa to address extreme disparities in the distribution of labour market opportunities. A key indicator of these disparities was labour market segregation involving job reservation.

These disparities were the direct legacy of past discriminatory laws, particularly laws that deliberately excluded certain groups of people from key decision-making positions and skills development opportunities in the workplace. A resultant feature of this exclusion is the gross underrepresentation of black people, women and persons with disabilities in key areas of the labour market, including management, science and technology-based occupations.

To give effect to the right to fair labour practices referred to in the Constitution of the Republic and to comply with the obligations of the Republic as a member state of the

International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Department has presided over a robust labour law regime and endeavoured, over the past years, to amend South African labour laws to reflect the changing labour dynamics and legal requirements in the country and globally. And also, to fast track the transformation of the workplace.

Programme Director, inspired by the President's SONA of 2025 and previous years, the review of the country's labour market policy and other reform options will serve to enhance South Africa's job market performance, drawing from international evidence and new analysis. The Department is exploring much scope for improving the design of its key labour market processes and institutions— collective bargaining, the Compensation Fund, the Unemployment Insurance Fund,

The employment mandate of the Department of Employment and Labour through employment protection legislation— and the much-needed Labour Activation Programmes is to improve job seekers' prospects. The Department is intentional in ensuring that the South African labour market and these reforms should primarily benefit disadvantaged groups such as youth and women who bear the brunt of high unemployment in the country.

The decision by social partners: business, labour and

communities, to introduce the National Minimum Wage, immediately raised the wages of over 6 million workers. Annual National Minimum Wage increase has been published on the 1 March 2025 which extends protection to vulnerable workers by publishing national minimum wages for all sectors.

Programme Director, The Labour Inspectorate has intensified efforts to ensure adherence to employment laws across all nine provinces through high impact blitz inspections. These inspections are in partnership with the Department of Home Affairs, the Bargaining Councils and other law enforcement agencies, including the South African Police Service. The scale and scope of these inspections demonstrate our commitment to upholding labour standards nationwide: -

Blitz inspections are the yardstick we use to determine compliance with enforcement. Noncompliance has a potential of impacting negatively on the businesses concerned. Potential penalties for non-compliance include fines and legal fees, interruption and loss of business and imprisonment. The mega blitz inspections have so far proven that a number of employers within the targeted sectors are continuing to undermine the South African labour legislation including employing undocumented foreign nationals.

Through unannounced or surprise visits, the inspector is enabled to observe the systems of work in normal use in the enterprise. Unannounced visits are also done if the inspector has reasons to believe that an announced visit would allow time for concealment of irregularities. An inspection visit resulting from a formal complaint should also normally be unannounced, to prevent documents and evidence from being concealed and to protect complainants from harassment and discriminatory behavior before the inspection.

Our inspections have revealed instances of non-compliance, including underpayment of wages, unlawful deductions, and inadequate health and safety measures.

We approach enforcement with a balance of firmness and fairness. Employers found in violation of the laws are issued with compliance orders with clear deadlines for corrective action. In situations where immediate risks to health and safety are identified, Prohibition Notices are issued to halt hazardous activities until compliance is achieved.

In the past five years the Department has conducted 1 280 312 inspections. There were 284 103 (22%) employers who did not comply and were served with enforcement notices. There were 23 994 employers who remained non-compliant after the expiry of the enforcement notices and these were referred

for prosecution.

Financial Recoveries for the last three financial years are as follows:

We remain deeply concerned about the high unemployment rate of 31,9%, mostly among South Africans, particularly affecting our youth. Concurrently, the employment of undocumented foreigners in various sectors raises serious concerns about exploitation and thus undermining our legal frameworks.

Our administration is committed to addressing these challenges comprehensively and humanely. We are collaborating closely with the Department of Home Affairs to ensure that employment practices comply with immigration laws, and that all workers—regardless of their origin—are treated with dignity and fairness.

Government has since finalised the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP) 2024/2029. Through this plan, clear objectives and a roadmap to achieve the priorities will be articulated. The GNU presents us with opportunities and challenges to achieve impact for our country. We have to fully utilise the consultative muscle of NEDLAC, as well as the social security policy implementation through the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Compensation Fund. Productivity South Africa and CCMA are also poised to contribute to labour market

efficiency. I must say that our country is rich with potential.

This year's Annual Employment & Labour Law Indaba comes at a pivotal moment where our country is faced with numerous challenges such as: unemployment, poverty and inequality, and the need for radical economic inclusion.

South Africa as a global player is not immune from the effects of the polycrisis, digitalisation, climate change and geopolitics. Climate change affects employment, economic stability, and social protection measures but I am pleased to note that significant strides against climate change are being made through Presidential Climate Change Commission.

The latest labour law reforms were initiated during 2021, following a proposal by NEDLAC social partners.

The process which was to be undertaken in three phases focused on:

amendments to labour laws to improve the efficiency of the labour market institutions mostly with respect to dismissals, retrenchments, collective bargaining, strike action; codes of good practice and secondary legislation; responding to changes in the labour market including protections for non-standard workers.

The latest amendments are intended to ensure labour laws remain relevant and responsive

to the changes and challenges in the labour market, among others, which are unemployment, seeking what is it business and labour can sacrifice or give away to create employment without compromising job security, what can be done to help small businesses thrive and create employment.

Although in recent years there have been amendments to some pieces of labour legislation like unemployment insurance (UIA) and the compensation for occupational injuries and diseases (COIDA) – a major labour amendment was last undertaken back in 2009/10 and the changes came into implementation in 2013.

The key focus of 2013 reforms was to respond to increased informalisation to ensure that vulnerable categories of workers receive adequate protection and are employed in conditions of decent work; enhance the effectiveness of the primary labour markets institutions such as the Labour Court, the CCMA, the Essential Services Committee, and the labour inspectorate; strengthen the implementation of Employment Equity and enhance equal treatment in the workplace; and re-position the public employment services.

The proposed Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Amendment Bill is poised to bring significant changes to workplace safety in South Africa. While much of the focus has

been on how these changes impact employers, it's equally important for employees to understand the new rights and protections this legislation provides. The Bill strengthens worker protections, empowers employees to take an active role in ensuring their own safety, and provides clear mechanisms for addressing health and safety concerns.

Programme Director, we fully subscribe to the ILO's Decent Work Agenda. Decent work sums up the aspirations of people in their working lives. It involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for all, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

Overall, the concept of decent work strives to create a work environment that upholds the rights and well-being of workers, promotes inclusive growth, and contributes to sustainable development. It requires a comprehensive approach that involves collaboration between governments, employers, workers' organisations and other stakeholders to address the diverse dimensions of work and build fair and equitable labour markets.

This Employment & Labour Law

Indaba is thus, not only an occasion to look back at three decades of collective achievements and reflect on the challenges encountered, but also an opportunity to reflect on our shared path going forward with renewed commitment.

MINISTER SOLLY MALATSI WELCOMES LAUNCH OF ROADMAP FOR THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT

Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr Solly Malatsi, welcomes the launch of the Roadmap for the Digital Transformation of the South African Government – a significant step in reshaping how citizens access essential services.

The Roadmap gives effect to the digital transformation pillar of Phase II of Operation Vulindlela, which was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 07 May 2025.

It aims to deliver on the Government of National Unity's commitment to inclusive growth, efficient service delivery, and ensuring that government services are accessible to all South Africans.

A flagship initiative of the 7th Administration, the Roadmap is anchored by the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) principles of delivering integrated public services safely, securely, and seamlessly.

At its core, the Roadmap is about creating a One Person, One Government, One Touch system

– a single, trusted platform that connects people to services.

The Inter-Departmental Working Group, co-chaired by the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) and National Treasury will collaborate with government departments to drive the technical work that will deliver on the initiatives outlined in the Roadmap.

These initiatives include the rollout of a Digital Identity System to verify identities remotely, the development of a Data Exchange Framework to streamline government processes, the introduction of a Digital Payments System for secure transactions, and a zero-rated Digital Services Platform where citizens can access government services without incurring data costs.

For ordinary South Africans, this means that tasks like renewing a driver's license, applying for social grants, or accessing health records will become simpler, faster, and less costly.

The roadmap is not just about modernising systems; it's about giving people back their time, reducing the cost of accessing services, and ensuring that government services work as efficiently as the best private sector platforms.



MTN commits \$10b to Nigeria's digital infrastructure

MTN has said since 2001, it has committed over \$10 billion into deepening Nigeria's digital infrastructure, enhancing widespread connectivity and financial inclusion.

Despite economic headwinds, the Group said it remained committed to Nigeria's long-term potential and the broader African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) vision.

The telecom giant said as Africa stands at the point of a profound transformation, the imperative for greater intra-continental cooperation has never been clearer. The path to shared prosperity depends not on the progress of individual nations but on the collective strength of our commitments.

Central to this vision is the

relationship between South Africa and Nigeria, two of the continent's largest economies, and the institutions that serve as bridges between them.

MTN Group said it hosted Minister Parks Tau (SA Minister of Trade Industry and Competition) and his delegation at its Johannesburg Headquarters. "At a time when global uncertainties are reshaping trade and technology, Africa must respond not in isolation, but in solidarity. As MTN, we see it as our duty to serve as an economic diplomatic bridge between Nigeria and South Africa — driving growth, fostering inclusion, and unlocking opportunity for the Africa's shared prosperity," the carrier said.

"MTN's journey exemplifies what is possible when two great nations collaborate. As Nigeria's largest South African investor, MTN has long viewed its presence not simply as a commercial venture but as a platform for inclusive development. Since commencing operations in Nigeria in 2001, we have invested more than \$10 billion in the country's digital infrastructure.

"Today, MTN Nigeria serves over 80 million subscribers, employs thousands directly, and supports hundreds of thousands of livelihoods across its extended value chain.

"Yet, while the economic footprint is significant, our greatest source of pride lies in the social and developmental outcomes accompanying this investment, expanded access to connectivity, enhanced financial inclusion, and the empowerment of individuals and enterprises through digital technologies.

"Still, the operating environment remains complex. Macroeconomic challenges in Nigeria, including currency depreciation, inflation, and constraints in accessing foreign exchange, have placed pressure on business continuity and investor confidence. Despite these difficulties, MTN remains firmly committed to its business case and its long-term presence in Nigeria, underpinned by a belief in the country's enduring potential and strategic importance to the continent," it added in an e-note at the weekend.



However, it said for South Africa and Nigeria to truly unlock their bilateral potential, a number of long-standing issues require resolution. The upcoming South Africa–Nigeria Trade and Investment Summit, to be held in Abuja later this year, will present a unique opportunity to address these concerns. The Summit serves not merely as a diplomatic engagement, but as a catalyst for policy reform, reciprocal market access, and institutional dialogue. Importantly, it should reinforce the private sector's role in shaping practical, actionable solutions that support cross-border trade and investment.

The AfCFTA offers a historic platform to actualise these ambitions. Yet its success will depend as much on infrastructure and digital connectivity as it will on tariff liberalisation or regulatory harmonisation.

“As a pan-African operator, MTN is investing heavily in the digital foundations of AfCFTA, facilitating seamless mobile communication, enabling digital payments, and building platforms for cross-border entrepreneurship.

“We also believe that integration must extend beyond economic frameworks to include cultural exchange and people-to-people engagement. One such initiative is our MTN Media Innovation Programme, which brings emerging Nigerian media professionals to South Africa for immersive learning. Through programmes like these, we aim to cultivate not only knowledge and skills, but also enduring bonds between our nations' future leaders,” the telco explained.



RMB Reaffirms Commitment to W'Africa's Trade-led Growth

Rand Merchant Bank (RMB), a leading African corporate and investment bank, reaffirmed its commitment to fostering trade-led growth in West Africa.

The bank in a statement reiterated this at the Global Trade Review (GTR) West Africa 2025 conference held recently in Lagos.

RMB in a statement noted that the two-day event, themed, “Financing Growth in West Africa's Trade Epicentre,” convened over 45 speakers and a diverse mix of stakeholders across the trade and finance ecosystem. It served as a strategic platform for deepening regional trade integration, sharing insights on policy trends, and strengthening business-to-business engagement across borders.”

Speaking during a high-level panel session titled “Ghana, Nigeria and Beyond: Assessing Trade Prospects,” Head of Treasury and Trade Solutions at RMB Nigeria, Oluwaseyi Onanuga, underscored the growing confidence in Nigeria's economic environment following recent policy adjustments.

“The robust economic reforms initiated by Nigeria's current administration are commendable steps towards advancing the economy. Measures like removing fuel subsidies and liberalising the foreign exchange market aim to foster macroeconomic stability and attract both local and foreign capital. Additionally, the Central Bank of Nigeria's financial sector



reforms are strategic efforts to safeguard the economy and bolster investor confidence.”

Onanuga's remarks reflect growing investor optimism, particularly within trade finance and supply chain sectors, as Nigeria seeks to reposition itself as a key economic hub on the continent.

With West Africa's two largest economies Nigeria and Ghana entering a phase of structural reforms and enhanced regional cooperation, Onanuga described the 2025 outlook for intra-African trade as encouraging.

“We anticipate robust growth in intra-African commerce under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),” he noted. “Enhancements to regulatory frameworks and payment-settlement infrastructures will broaden the trade-finance market, drive down transaction costs, reduce concentration risk, lower barriers to entry for emerging players, and foster a more inclusive and resilient trading environment in the region.”



eTranzact Deepens Digital Payments Drive

In a strategic push to boost digital payment adoption among Nigeria's informal sector, Credo by eTranzact has expanded its footprint to southern Nigeria through a hands-on market activation campaign across key commercial hubs in Port Harcourt.

eTranzact in a statement said the initiative, held in partnership with Eligbam City, focused on onboarding small business owners across Garrison Computer Village, Rumukalagbor Market, and Rumuomasi Market—markets known for their vibrant commercial activity but dominated by cash-based transactions.

Speaking at the event, Omokorede Amund, Product Marketing Manager, Credo by eTranzact said, “We're not just building a payment solution, we're building confidence in the future of small businesses.”

The activation focused on addressing real concerns, including transaction security, ease of use, and daily settlement challenges. Traders were shown how to accept payments both online and offline, track sales, and manage records using the Credo platform.

The campaign approach highlights a growing trend among fintechs: moving beyond digital ads and influencer campaigns to engage directly with business owners in markets and other informal spaces.

“Port Harcourt is full of hustle and innovation; this roadshow allowed us to meet business owners where they are and demonstrate practical ways they can benefit from digital payments,” Amund added.

The activation also featured a raffle draw, offering prizes such as WiFi routers, cash rewards, and small business tools an incentive designed to attract participation and provide immediate value to attendees.

APRIL 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY THE COCA-COLA COMPANY



Ajibola Olomola, Vice Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Bolaji Okusaga, Managing Consultant, Precise Platform Company; Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Amaka Onyemelukwe, Director, Public Affairs and Communication, Coca Cola Nigeria; Iyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Chris Ehimaghe, Director, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce



Ayo Okusaga, Managing Consultant, precise platform company, receiving appreciation plaque from Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Amaka Onyemelukwe, Director Public Affairs, Coca Cola Nigeria.



Cross section of participants



Cross section of participants



Wemimo A. Oladimehin, HOD, letting Diya Fatimilehin & Co; Prof Neave Kannemeyer MD, Arcfyre, and Richard Daniels, ED, Hunta.



Kemi Leke Bamtefa, Country Manager, SAA and Ohis Ehimaghe, Director, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce

APRIL 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY THE COCA-COLA COMPANY



Cross section of participants



Cross section of participants



Cross section of participants



Ajibola Olomola , Vice Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Amaka onyemelukwe, Director public Affairs, Coca Cola Nigeria and Ayo okusaga, Managing Consultant, precise platform company



Cross section of participants



Bukunmi Olaniyonu, Associate Director, KPMG, Abiola Williams, COO, Lucid Audio Visual and Adesola Sobande CFO, SO&U Ltd.

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- Relationship with the Consulate on matters relating to Investment, Trade Mission and Visa.
- Promoting bilateral trade and interest between Nigeria and South Africa
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- Assistance with Company set-up in Nigeria and in South Africa
- Access to South African Trade Delegations to foster business related opportunities.
- Access to Business Conferences in South Africa.
- Access to Trade Missions to South Africa.
- Advocacy: Members are represented and their voice heard through the Chamber Committees that address business related issues at various inter-governmental levels.

Please contact the Chamber Secretariat for further enquiries

Mr. Iyke Ejimofor
Executive Secretary

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- Information about the Chamber
- Insights
- Services
- Information on investment opportunities in Nigeria and South Africa.
- Information on Tourist Attractions in Nigeria and South Africa.
- Information on Promotion of Bilateral Trade Investment between Nigeria and South Africa
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Iyke Ejimofor
Executive Secretary

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TRAVEL CHECKLIST FOR SOUTH AFRICA

1. A valid Passport (validity of at least 30days after the intended stay).
2. **Valid Visa:** -Diplomatic Passport are exempted.
-Ordinary Passport requires visa.
3. **Vaccination Certificate** (Yellow Fever Card) duly and fully completed by a health practitioner.

A fully completed valid card should bear the following information: Full names of the applicant, Passport number, Date of birth, Gender/Sex, Signature of the applicant, Date on which vaccine was taken, Health practitioner's signature and the name of the centre where the vaccine was taken/administered, Manufacturer and Batch number of the vaccine, and official stamp of the vaccinating centre.

Children who are 10years and below require their Clinic/Health Immunization Cards, with evidence of yellow fever vaccine taken at 9/12months.

Valid Yellow Fever Card could be applied in good time at Murtala Mohammed International Airport:

PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OFFICE.

ALSO NOTE: The validity of your card is 10years.

4. Minor(s)/Child(ren) accompanied by both Parents should have unabridged Birth Certificate.
5. Minor(s)/Child(ren) accompanied by one Parent should have:
 - i) Unabridged Birth Certificate(s) for Minor(s)/Child(ren).
 - ii) Letter of consent from the other Parent and passport data page.
 - iii) Marriage certificate.
6. Minor(s)/child(ren) accompanied by Guardian should have:
 - i) Unabridged Birth Certificate(s) for Minor(s)/Child(ren).
 - ii) Parental Consent Affidavit (PCA).
 - iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the Parents.
 - iv) Contact details of the person in whose care the Minor(s)/Child(ren) will be in South Africa.

ENSURE YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETE PRIOR TO TRAVELLING!

NOTE: COVID -19 COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED.



VISA

REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

VISITOR'S VISA

1. Application Form fully completed in black ink only
2. Two identical passport size (45mmx45mm) photographs on white background showing the complete face.
3. A valid passport (validity of at least 30 days after the intended stay)
4. Certified copy of passport data page as well as copies of existing visa and previously issued visas, if any.
5. Self introduction letter with physical address and phone number.
6. Introduction/Recommendation letter from an Employer, where applicable, signed with contact details, (full names of the Employer's, approved signatories, physical address and phone numbers).
7. Verifiable hotel reservation/bookings which must be done directly with the hotels and not through third parties, (e.g. booking .com; hotel .com, HRS, etc).
8. Certified copy of international vaccination card (yellow fever card) duly and fully completed by a health practitioner.
9. Proof of sufficient financial status (three months recent bank statement) or financial support letter from employer with three months bank statement) in a case where the Employer is sponsoring the trip. In the event the applicant is travelling on a private capacity, the bank statement submitted should reflect the salary deposited into the applicant's bank statement. Sponsored trips should always have a letter with full details of the sponsor and contact details; as well as a copy of identity card/passport data page. Certain Corporate Entities are exempted from this requirement.
10. Applicant travelling on an official business should, in addition to the above requirements, attach a letter of invitation/confirmation of training/conference, etc. from a South African Company with full details of the Company's Authorized representative; physical address and phone numbers (landline number compulsory). All verifiable bookings (accommodation as well as flight) are required and should be submitted together with the application.
11. Unabridged Birth Certificate for Minors/Children travelling with parents. Where applicable, a consent letter/s with copy/ies of parent/s identification card/passport data page should be attached to the application.
12. Marriage Certificate where applicable and if the intended stay will be for more than 90 days.
13. Verifiable Flight Booking.
14. Visitors to South Africa must have at least two blank pages on their passport.
15. Applications for all types of Visas should be submitted to VFS for Processing.

NOTE: COVID -19 COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED.

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